

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peter's Church Carlton On Tuesday 9 November 2010

Present: Malcolm Stennett - Chairman, Hedley Francis, Michael Mann, John Coppen, Caroline Revitt, Stephen Roberts, Edith Osborn as Clerk, John Batchelor - County Councillor, Martin Reynolds

1 Apologies: Elaine Read, Pauline Jarvis - District Councillor, Richard Barrett - District Councillor

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 August 2010. Agreed as correct by all councillors.

Matters arising

-Councillor Jarvis had confirmed since the last meeting that the uncontested election expenses were required to be paid and the cheque had been duly submitted.

-Gritting of the roads in Carlton will not be possible as there is no capacity unless a new gritter can be obtained. Gritting will be on the bus routes only. As in previous years farmers can register their machinery and grit the roads on behalf of the County Council. John Coppen agreed to approach Weston Woods Farm and ask them to register. Cllr Batchelor agreed to circulate the procedure for how to take part in the gritting scheme.

-Stephen Roberts reported that he had attended two of the three training sessions for new councillors and he had found them very interesting. He referred to Dispensation Orders and asked whether Carlton Parish Council had ever used them. The Chairman advised that Carlton had not used them as any councillor with an interest in a planning application usually declared that interest immediately and other councillors are selected to review the planning application. Cllr Batchelor advised that most of the referrals to the standards committee are to do with planning applications.

3 Finance

3.1 Payments were authorised for:

3.1.1 Country Grounds Maintenance chq 198	£ 47.00
3.1.2 Moore Stephens chq 197	£ 58.75

3.2 The Receipts, payments and bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2010 were accepted as correct.

3.3 Precept 2011/12

The proposed precept spreadsheet was reviewed. The councillors agreed that the precept for 2011/12 would remain at £2,100.

Cllr Batchelor advised that the County and District Councils were not allowed to increase their precepts this year.

Stephen Roberts raised the issue of allotments and it was agreed that there would need to be a reasonable demand from parishioners for allotments before an approach could be made to landowners.

3.4 It was decided that requests for donations from local organisations would be reviewed but not those from further away.

4 Planning.

4.1 S/0962/10/F Erection of dwelling, 163 Carlton Green Road

It was noted that the District Council had rejected this application but it was likely to go to appeal.

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5 Environment

5.1 Footpaths

Caroline Revitt advised that the footpath signage was in hand.

5.2 War Memorial

The Chairman distributed his report on the War Memorial which he then reviewed.

The Clerk is to send off the report to SCDC and apply for the grant of £333.

5.3 Grass cutting contract

The Clerk advised that Country Grounds Maintenance had increased their price per cut to £60 per cut from £40 per cut for next season. It was agreed to continue with this company as their charges were not unreasonable and the standard of the cutting was high.

5.4 Road signs

Mrs Willow Wylie had supplied the Parish Council with the following note:

“Our road name signs have been down since February for Acre Road and Church Road at the old school corner. Please would you get something done about them. I have been in touch with someone called Donna who was very helpful and she passed it onto SCCC but still nothing has been done.

The number she gave me was 01954 713172. I must say I am surprised none of you on the PCC have looked into this. Thank you.”

The Clerk advised that she had reported the signs on Acre Road and Church Road to the District Council some time ago and having chased them again was informed that the subcontractor had 45 jobs still to complete before coming to Carlton. Cllr Batchelor confirmed that it takes 6-9 months for a job to be completed.

5.5 Wadlow Wind Farm

Hedley Francis and Caroline Revitt attended the last meeting of the group of parishes. The anticipated pot of money is to be divided up by application of the villages with good causes. It was decided to apply for money to resurface the Millenium Walkway when the time came for applications to be made. The next meeting is on 6 December at which Hedley Francis will be representing the interests of ten villages.

5.6 Lorries passing through the village

It was noted that Bidwells had handled the Vestay’s planning application for Weston Woods Farm. A Transport Plan was to be prepared as part of the planning application but it had not been supplied to the Parish Council. It was decided to obtain the Plan from SCDC and review it to see if the proposals were being followed. It was estimated that 15-20 tons of grain would be moved from the grain store over the next few months.

5.7 Big Society

The Chairman advised that he had attended a recent meeting about the Big Society. The organisers (Cambridgeshire ACRE) sought views on practical ways in which devolved powers could be applied to Parish Councils.

Councillor Batchelor stated that the Government was consulting on paper but no firm decisions had been made. However, the Regional Authority (EEDA) had been closed and leaders of councils are coming together now to make decisions.

6 District Councillor’s report

There was no report.

7 County Councillor’s report

Councillor Batchelor reported that there had been a spending review in October resulting in cuts of 25% to the budgets over four years. Money which had been ring-fenced for specific projects is proposed to be released. There is £300m in the schools budget and £300m for special projects and until December 2010 it will be unclear whether the cut will be 25% on £600m.

The Youth Service budget has already been cut by one third and therefore if Parish Councils want to have youth clubs they will have to fund them.

Cuts in the Police force amount to 16% over four years.

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Enforcement of speeding restrictions by the Police on A1307 has produced a 42% reduction in casualties since 2008.

Cllr Batchelor reported that the planning application for the windfarm at Linton had been refused and at appeal it was again refused. The developer is required to pay costs.

8 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

A couple of items were raised being the mud on the lower part of Acre Road and the water not draining away on the top part of Acre Road.

Cllr Batchelor agreed to talk to Mr Faunch at the Highways department about what action could be taken.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 February 2011 at 8pm

The Meeting closed at 9.55pm.